Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3359

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AODE, EAGR, ES

SUBJECT: APHIS MEDITERRANEAN FRUIT FLY PREVENTION PROGRAM

REF: STATE 025693

1. EMBASSY PREPARED GO AHEAD ON NEGOTIATION MEDFLY AGREEMENT WITH GOES UNDER ASSUMPTION DEPARTMENT OF STATE ALSO PREFERS WE SEEK IMMUNITIES CONTAINED IN APHIS 1973 AGREEMENT RATHER THAN THOSE CONTAINED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (AID) AGREEMENT. 2. WE WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE, HOWEVER, SEVERAL FACTORS RELATING TO THIS ISSUE WHICH WE CONSIDERED IMPORTANT. A) AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE AND PRECEDENT, WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD SEEK MOST FAVORABLE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES FOR U.S. OFFICIAL PERSONNEL ABROAD, SO LONG AS WE DO NOT VIOLATE CONSIDERATIONS OF RECIPROCITY. B) WE WOULD CONSIDER THE PERSONNEL OF THE NEW APHIS MISSION OF "COMPARABLE RANK" TO "MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC STAFF" OF THE EMBASSY; THUS UNDER AN AID TYPE AGREEMENT ENTITLED TO FULL PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES. C) AT PRESENT, EVEN IF THEY WERE CONSIDERED UNDER SUCH AN AGREEMENT AT THE LEVEL OF "MEMBERS OF THE ADMININSTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL STAFF OF THE MISSION", GOES, PERHAPS ON A BASIS OF RECIPROCITY WITH THE U.S., WOULD GRANT THEM SAME PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES. HOWEVER, QUESTION OF THEIR IMMUNITY FROM CIVIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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JURISDICTION FOR NON-OFFICIAL ACTS, WHICH DISALLOWED BY VIENNA CONVENTION FOR SUCH PERSONNEL, NOT TESTED HERE TO OUR KNOWLEDGE. WE UNDERSTAND UNDER U.S. LAW ALSO NO DISTINCTION MADE AT PRESENT BUT THAT SOME PROPOSED CHANGES MAY BE IN THE WORKS. D) IF SALVADORAN PRACTICE WERE TO CHANGE, INDEPENDENTLY OR RECIPROCALLY AS RESULT U.S. LAW AND PRACTICE, THE QUESTION OF LEVEL OF APHIS AMERICAN PERSONNEL COULD BECOME AN ISSUE.

IF GOES WERE TO INSIST THAT THEY BE CONSIDERED TECHNICAL LEVEL, WHICH WE DOUBT, OR WE INDEED SENT TECHNICAL LEVEL PERSONNEL, THE WORKING OF THE 1973 APHIS AGREEMENT WOULD BE MORE ADVANTAGEOUS, SINCE MULTIPLE ENTRY DURING TOUR RATHER THAN FIRST INSTALLATION IMPORTS WOULD BE FREE OF CUSTOMS DUTY. E) APHIS MAY PREFER HAVE SAME PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES FOR NEW PROJECT AS FOR FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE PROJECT, SINCE THERE HAVE BEEN NO PROBLEMS UP TO NOW, BUT PROBABLY DO NOT REALIZE THAT IF FULL IMMUNITIES ACQUIRED FOR NEW PROJECT. STAGE WOULD BE SET FOR RENEGOTIATION OF OTHER CURRENT PROJECTS INCLUDING THEIRS. THUS REDUCING LIKELIHOOD FUTURE PROBLEMS.F) ALTHOUGH NOT ABSOLUTELY SURE, WE FEEL CONFIDENT WE CAN NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT WITH FULL PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES, UNLESS OUR RELATIONS WITH EL SALVADOR SHOULD DETERIORATE OUICKLY AND DRASTICALLY. 3. SINCE DEPARTMENT OF STATE SEES THESE ISSUES OF PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES GLOBALLY, AND WOULD BE AWARE OF WHATEVER DEVELOP-

AND IMMUNITIES GLOBALLY, AND WOULD BE AWARE OF WHATEVER DEVELOP MENTS MAY NOW BE IN PROCESS, WE WOULD APPRECIATE IN ANY EVENT AN EXPRESSION OF THE DEPARTMENT'S POLICY ON PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF USG AMERICAN PERSONNEL ABROAD. WE NOW HAVE A HODGEPODGE AND WOULD INDEED LIKE TO MOVE TOWARD AS UNIFORM AND FAVORABLE AN APPROACH AS POSSIBLE. LOZANO

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